

- Mary Thompson
 - 406-449-7128
 - Montana Certified Elementary Education Teacher (10 years experience)
 - Mother of three children
- Disagree with funding a full-day program when half-day program not even required in Montana.
- Parents main concern for benefits of full-day kindergarten is not academic improvement but savings in child-care expenses and inconveniences.
- Second grade teacher where school had half-day and full-day K program.
 - Once students reached 2nd grade observed no difference between students in either program.
 - Brightest students attended half-day program.
 - Explanation why.
- Research shows
 - Benefits of full-day kindergarten programs are clear at the end of kindergarten and into 1st grade, but largely evaporate by 3rd grade.
 - Gains by at-risk kids in full-day kindergarten are lost at the end of 1st grade.
- Research and Studies show the following are positives to half-day kindergarten
 - Provides all that young children need for intro to school.
 - Decreases stress on child
 - Short attention span,
 - Home ties,
 - Level of interest.
- Research and Studies show the following are negatives to full-day kindergarten
 - Not development appropriate.
 - Too much curriculum material is taught that is more appropriate for 1st grade.
 - More formal instruction over longer time periods, which are inappropriate for the age.
 - More expensive in staff, equipment, space, and students.
 - Focuses on academics too much.
 - Full-day kindergarten funding will eliminate half-day program choice for parents in some school districts.
 - Kindergarten aged children in rural districts may be away from home for up to 9 hours a day.
- Kindergarten teaching experience
 - Half-day morning students are more alert, more awake, and eager to learn.
 - Full-day students are exhausted, tired, sleepy, cranky and sometimes crying by early afternoon.
 - Full-day students require a naptime (more of a child-care environment).
- Transitions between pre-school or home to full-day kindergarten is more dramatic than half-day kindergarten to full-day 1st grade.